



## Fact Sheets and Information Papers

### Field Spill Planning and Response

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**1. BACKGROUND:** Unexpected situations are a common occurrence in the field environment and on major unit deployments. There is a potential for hazardous materials spills to occur during these operations. When developing your field training exercise, plan for spills. As a minimum, the following field operations should be considered while Operations Orders (OPORDER) annexes and unit Tactical SOPs (TACSOPs) are being developed regarding spill prevention and response: storage and transportation of POL/hazardous materials, river crossing operations, temporary refueling points, weapons cleaning, and any other field maintenance operations. Preparing and rehearsing an effective SOP and carrying spill prevention equipment will both enhance mission performance and protect soldiers and the environment.

**2. PREDEPLOYMENT REQUIERMENTS:** Develop and rehearse a comprehensive and detailed unit SOP that provides guidance on possible types of spill contingency requirements. OPORDERs should include an annex to properly address likely spill scenarios that may be encountered during the mission.

### 3. INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN THE OPORDER ANNEX AND UNIT SOPs:

- Discuss the type of operation and identify aspects of the mission that are at risk for potential spills.
- Discuss how to conduct the operation in a way that minimizes the potential for spills. Examples of such methods include conducting refueling operations away from streams, rivers, or lakes, setting up containment/bermed areas, classroom training, practicing spill response scenarios, and locating spill response equipment at key spots.
- List required equipment for minimizing spills including POL drip plans, inert absorbent materials (such as sand, dry sweep, or vermiculite), and sandbags. Ensure that spill response equipment and materials are included as part of the vehicle's basic load.
- Specify, in writing, who will oversee the spill response and act as the On-Scene Commander.
- Discuss step-by-step procedures to control the spill. Include what to do with the clean up material (drum it and arrange for disposal).
- Describe reporting procedures; include the following information in your procedures:

Emergency radio frequency and call signs

Military & civilian emergency contacts and phone numbers

- Describe information to provide to emergency contacts:

Type of substance spilled  
Quantity of substance spilled  
Spill location  
Proximity to surface waters (lake, river, stream)  
What actions were taken  
Personnel injured/exposed

**3. COORDINATION:** Coordinate with installation and training center environmental offices and host nation liaisons for their training and maneuver area requirements. Include installation or host nation environmental requirements in the OPORDERs.

**4. IN THE FIELD:** Prior to deployment, unit logistics should distribute required spill prevention and control equipment and materials. Conduct pre-operational checks to confirm that equipment and materials are in good condition and placed at potential spill sites previously identified. In case of a spill follow the prescribed emergency procedures as discussed in the OPORDERs and TACSOPs. Record and report all spill/accident events using the procedures outlined above and follow necessary notification procedures for reporting the spill.

**5. REFERENCES:** (available from USACHPPM)

TG 217 – HM/HW Management Guidance During Field and Contingency Operations – (PDF)

Pollution Prevention Guide – Tactical Motorpool Operations (PDF)

Pollution Prevention Guide – Weapons Cleaning (PDF)

*Hazardous and Medical Waste Program, Ms. Dominique Lowrance-Snyder  
5158 Blackhawk Road, ATTN: MCHB-TS-EHM  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5403  
(410) 436-3651, DSN 584-3651*